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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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GOLF COURSE

Council rejects \$4K bill for golf carts

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Mayor argues 'moral obligation' to pay despite vendor's mistake

Citing their frustration with repeated subsidies of the Agawam Municipal Golf Course, councilors on Monday voted against paying a \$4,000 late bill to E-Z-GO, a golf cart supplier.

Mayor Richard Cohen had requested a reserve fund transfer to pay the bill, which was the result

of an error by E-Z-GO. The vendor had failed to properly record a serial number for a beverage cart that was part of a \$265,000 package the town purchased last year, including new golf carts and utility carts. The beverage cart was received by the town, but E-Z-GO still issued a refund last year for the cart.

The check was received by the mayor's office, and knowledge of the refund went through mayor's office, city auditor and treasurer's office.

"There are four levels of fault here," said Councilor Gina Letellier. "No one questioned this refund at all."

The auditor, Cheryl St. John,

said she did not deposit the check, simply giving the town treasurer the account number it was to be placed in.

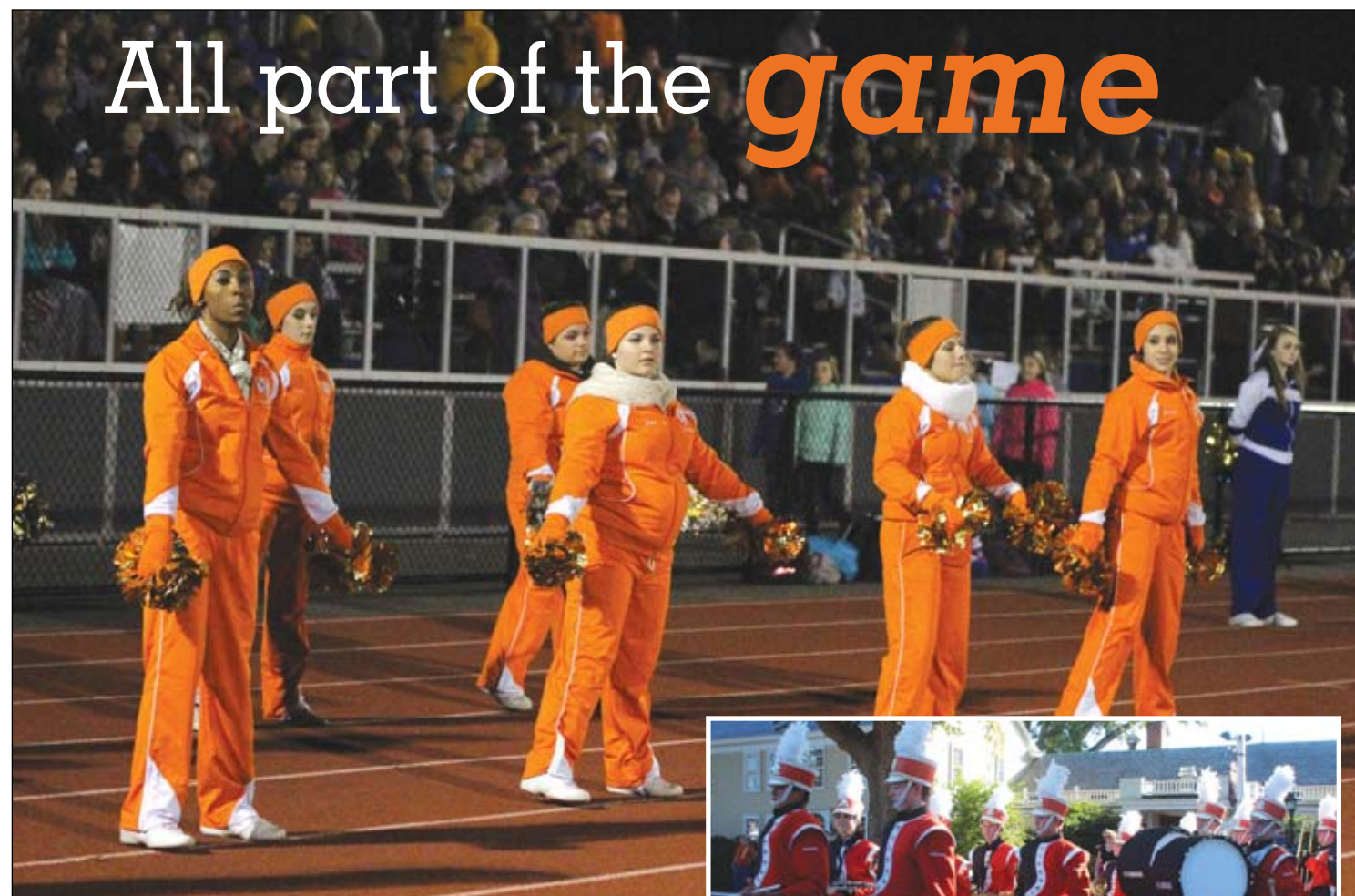
Cohen said when the check was received, the town contacted E-Z-GO's auditing department.

"All they could tell us at the time was that it was an overpayment," said Cohen. "But we abso-

lutely questioned it. They did not realize the error until they sent us the letter in October."

In addition to the town's administration, an email trail regarding the refund check also showed golf course manager Tony Roberto was aware the town received a refund. An email to the town stated E-Z-GO had con-

GOLF | page 6



Cheerleaders bundled up for Agawam High School's playoff game against Chicopee Comp last week — because no matter how cold it is, it wouldn't be football without cheerleaders. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

At right the Marching Mohawks in action earlier this year at the Big E. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK



ON THE FIELD

Great sounds, amazing visuals add feel to AHS football

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

Agawam High School's football games are well-known for the passion of its players on the gridiron, but also for the stellar marching band as well as the striking visual elements of the cheerleaders and the color guard.

They are such an integral part the games that it's difficult to imagine what it would be like without them.

"A football game without the band? Without the cheerleaders? Without the special effects of the color guard and majorettes? That would be like watching a movie with no soundtrack," said Tammy Watson, a former AHS band director. "The great sounds, the amazing visuals, and the camaraderie of the groups makes the whole experience exciting."

What is just as remarkable is that the combination of the marching band — the Marching Mohawks — and the color guard are likely the last such unit

GAMES | page 10

AGAWAM MOTOR LODGE

First responder calls rising again at motel

Review hearing expected next month on lawsuit filed by town

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Town officials are concerned about a recent uptick in police, fire and ambulance calls to the Agawam Motor Lodge.

The town took the motel to court in July after it found a wide range of building, fire and health code violations at the Suffield Street property. Officials at the time also declared it to be a "nuisance" because of the large number of emergency calls.

The lawsuit is heading toward a Dec. 18 review hearing in Springfield Housing Court.

The review session will allow the town's and the Agawam Motor Lodge's attorneys to review the status of the motel and its compliance with agreements it has made with the town — including a promise to cut down on police, fire and ambulance calls.

Gerard DiSanti, the attorney for motel owner Chulho Yoo, did not return phone calls seeking comment on the current state of the motel.

The town had originally called for the motel to be either torn down, or placed in the possession of a receiver that could address issues.

Since the town began taking action in early July, the motel management has made major improvements to the facility, complying with mandates from the health and fire inspectors. Both conducted multiple inspections in June and July.

Assistant Town Solicitor Patrick Toney said he was not sure if and when followup inspections would be taking place prior to the review session, but at last check, the motel was complying with all the orders from inspectors, including the installation of smoke

MOTEL | page 6

Sign of service



Marine Corps veteran Francis Curnow places a wreath on one of the plaques at Veterans Green on Main Street during the town's Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11. More photos, page 2. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



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Color guard



From left, Marine Corps veterans Francis Curnow, Christopher Sanchez and Ron Hamel raised the flag during Agawam's Veterans Day exercises at the Veterans Green on Main Street on Nov. 11. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

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What's cooking



Agawam Senior Center Director Joan Linnehan, center, stands with Friends of the Agawam Senior Center Treasurer Bill Beaudry, left, and President Emile Cote, along with the first of four new ovens installed Nov. 10 at the Senior Center. The ovens replace models that have become too expensive to maintain, and were funded by a \$13,440 gift of the Friends. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



Matt Desautels, left, and Nick Snyder of Kittredge Equipment Co., based in Agawam, prepare to wheel out one of the old Senior Center kitchen ovens. Though the old ovens lasted only six years, the new ones are of higher quality and are expected to last five times as long.

Author to discuss baseball collector book Dec. 7

Agawam Public Library will host its next edition of AuthorTalk at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, when Stephen McKelvey will be the featured speaker, discussing his book, "Labor of Love."

For over six decades, Dick "The Rev" McKelvey lived a life "silly on baseball." In building one of the largest private baseball autograph collections in the world, his greatest "labor of love," and the genre he created, was collecting themed baseballs celebrating the game's milestones, memorable events and noted personalities.

Sons Stephen and Kevin McKelvey care-

fully curated the collection's most iconic themed autographs. Captured within the book are backstories around the artifacts, snippets of baseball history, along with one-of-a-kind digital images of team sheets, signed baseballs, bats and memorabilia. For more information, visit www.laboroflove.com.

To register, call 413-789-1550, ext. 4, or visit www.agawamlibrary.org. Books will be available for purchase and signing at the event. The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

Still owner plans changes to curb noise

Council will wait before renewing bar's entertainment license

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Agawam City Council has tabled the renewal of The Still's entertainment license for 2016 after a request from owner and manager Rebecca Masler.

On Monday night about 30 people attended the City Council meeting, with several saying they support The Still's business despite noise complaints from a pair of neighbors on Silver Street, behind the Southgate Plaza bar.

Masler made the request during the public comment portion of the meeting. She told the city council she is in the process of attempting to change her floor plan to move the band stage and speakers.

"I am going to move the stage so the band and the speakers are toward the front of the building and the noise will flow toward Suffield Street," said Masler.

She admitted despite efforts to install soundproofing equipment, noise is still escaping somehow out the back of the building. That noise has continued to affect neighbor Vincent Burba and the Cecchi family.

Burba spoke during public comment for the second consecutive meeting. He reiterated his stance, saying he is seeking "relief" from the booming vibration coming from The Still.

"The latest complaint is from last Saturday," said Burba. "I called at 10:30 p.m. because the noise was so loud. It continued booming while I was trying to sleep."

Burba said Masler's soundproofing equipment "is not good enough." The soundproofing was installed in late August as part of an agreement with the City Council's Administrative Subcommittee, to stave off a possible entertainment license

suspension.

Masler said she is working to be a good neighbor and does not want to have issues with the residents behind the building.

"We are not sure how the sound has been getting through," said Masler. "But I want to make this better and I hope flipping the stage will be the end of this."

Her attorney, Stephen Buoniconti, requested the Agawam City Council wait to vote on The Still's license until the Dec. 21 meeting, to allow Masler time to flip the stage and test it out with live music during the next month.

In pleading Masler's case, Buoniconti also noted despite the complaints, there have been no citations issued against The Still. He believes that should be a major consideration in the decision to renew the license.

One supporter of The Still said the business is the only place where live music is played on the weekends. He said if the council takes away the entertainment license, it would cause people to head to other towns to seek entertainment, which would be bad for the local economy.

Councilor Robert Rossi has contended the Agawam Police Department should be taking action for the complaints and it should not be left up to the council. He has also proposed the council's Legislative Subcommittee look at the entertainment license regulations to address excessive noise.

Councilor Anthony Suffriti said he went to the business and the homes nearby and acknowledged there are some noise issues. Councilor George Bitzas said he believes Masler is working to resolve the issue and tabling it is the right thing to do.

The council agreed to table the license renewal until the Dec. 21 meeting.

Clergy to host Thanksgiving Eve service at St. John

All are invited to join the Agawam Clergy Association at the annual Community Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25, at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., Agawam.

Local pastors will conduct the service. Welcome and opening prayer will be led by the Rev. Bill Pass, pastor of Church of Redemption; the proclamation by Mayor Richard Cohen; a prayer for our nation and world by the Rev. George Thomson, pastor of First Baptist Church; offering by the Rev. Bob Olmstead of Lighthouse Christian Church; Scripture by the Rev. Richard Adams of Bethany Assembly of God; message by the Rev. Greg Dawson, pastor of Agawam Congregational Church; litany of

thanks by Jean Raczkowski of Sacred Heart Church; message by the Rev. Brian McGrath, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church; and benediction by the Rev. Harvey Hill of St. David's Episcopal Church. Fellowship time will follow in the parish hall at St. John.

Special music by combined choirs will be led by Mary Towsley.

A free will offering will support the Phil Coburn Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner at St. Thomas in West Springfield on Thursday, Nov. 26. Agawam and Feeding Hills residents may have dinners delivered by calling the Agawam Senior Center at 413-821-0604 or 413-821-0605. Everyone is invited to St. Thomas School. Meals will be served from noon to 2 p.m.




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Opinion

OUR VIEW

Extra Life event defies 'gamer' stereotype

Quick — describe a “gamer.” White, male, single, awkward, disheveled, introverted, obese, crude, detached from reality and obsessed with fantasy ... the stereotypes are easy to list. Partially that's because gamers are an easy group for mass media to caricature, in this age when minority racial, sexual and religious groups aren't supposed to be an object of ridicule. You can always tell the gamer on television or at the movies because he (almost always a “he” ... sometimes, though rarely, a “she” with glasses) is the one who's really good at interacting with technology and really bad at interacting with people. Maybe the stereotype sticks because gamers do form their own communities, built around a specialized pursuit, and to the outsider, this can come across as clannish.

But they're also part of our larger community. Yes, the crowd down at Headquarters on Springfield Street two weekends ago spent hours fighting fake wars and exploring make-believe worlds — a pursuit that most of us would say we left behind when we became adults. But the money they were raising for Baystate Children's Hospital was no fantasy. The decision that each of them had made — to take a few hours, or perhaps the full day, to practice their hobby at an Extra Life fundraiser in a public place, at a community event — is like a fitness enthusiast's decision to run in a charity 10K, or a motorcyclist participating in a benefit poker run. As anyone familiar with the stereotype knows, these men (yes, to be honest, they were mostly men) could have stayed in their basements and had just as good a time. Instead they came out to do good.

For some, it's because they are part of our larger community. John Szramowski, captain of Team Thunder, a group of gamers who organized the Agawam event, works in the emergency department at Baystate Children's. He said the annual fundraiser, which was held at a public venue this year because it had grown too large, after two previous years, to be held in private homes, strikes a personal chord for him because he sees how the money raised makes a real-world impact on patients' and families' lives. In previous years, Extra Life purchased iPads and other technology for use in the hospital. This year, they hope to buy portable vein finders. That's not saving some princess of pixels — that's improving the quality of care for some mommy and daddy's real princess.

Go ahead, describe a gamer. Fun-loving, kind, charitable. Someone who enjoys leisure time, but also someone who steps up to help out. A real member of the community.

What do you think? Email your letter to the editor to aan@turley.com.



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Letter to the Editor

Young boy warms the hearts of veterans

To the editor:

The Agawam Veterans Council provided an appropriate program for Veterans Day. In spite of the drizzly weather, the program was reasonably well attended. The most heart-warming event of the day was a young boy, maybe six or seven years old, handing an envelope to those veterans in

attendance. The envelope contained a note expressing his thanks for their service. His note read as follows:

Dear Veteran, Thank you very much for protecting our freedom and your service! From Ryan Flynn.

Raoul Sands, veteran
Agawam

YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

A-plus and A-plus

Larry Scherpa '65 and Mike Marieb '61 both got A-plus for correctly answering 19 of the 20 questions in the last column. Here are the correct answers to the quiz published Oct. 29.

1. The Jets were sponsored by the Deloghia Trucking Co., which was run by Mario Deloghia at 305 Suffield St. The brick building on the corner of Suffield and Cooper Streets is all that remains of the company. Homes have been built on the land. Barbara (LaBranche) Foley '51 said that her mom Ida was Mario's sister and the two of them had eight siblings.

2. Mrs. Nardi's maiden name was Dorothea Atwood.

3. No. Judy Schinelli '61 was only a member of the Teensters. They became the Velveteens after she left the group.

4. Gary Nolin '77 lives in California. His name was in the credits of the movie "Titanic."

5. Alice Davis was older than her uncle Ray Haseltine. Both were '62s.

6. Joseph DePalo was well known for his spectacular Christmas display at the corner of Main and Meadow streets.

7. Stanley Drzyzga '56 was the brother of Barbara Drzyzga '53. She is a commercial teacher in the '59 Sachem.

8. Jackie Fenton's mom is Althea Cowles, who was born Aug. 4, 1911. She just turned 104 and is one of our oldest residents. Her maiden name is Rivers and she went to AHS when it was a new building on Main Street.

9. David Theodorowicz was the principal who sold peanuts at Sears when he was young. He could be heard anywhere on the first floor and parents with kids were usually stuck buying some peanuts before leaving.

10. Ken Grady was the police chief pictured in between John and Jackie Kennedy.

11. Gayle Reidy was the '62 whose dad

ran the reform school. Her brother Tom is a retired local landscaper who is about seven years younger than Gayle.



Walt Willard

12. Evelyn Hamilton was the spunky English teacher who retired to Martha's Vineyard. She had plenty of energy and the kids really liked her.

13. Beverly Orr '72 has her own accounting firm in Washington, D.C., where she specializes in work for non-profit organizations. Her classmates voted her "Most Likely to Succeed."

14. Valerie Falbo '64 signed Bridget Moynahan to a modeling contract when Bridget was

only 18.

15. Marilyn Wilson '54 was our Centennial Queen. She lives in Somers, Conn.

16. David Pulaski took thousands of pictures for AHS Sachems. He was the yearbook advisor for many years.

17. Jodi Ferraro was the '79 cheerleader who later got her doctorate in chemistry.

18. Fran Rosso '38 pitched in Major League Baseball. His son Brian pitched for AHS.

19. Maria Sears taught French at AHS and then at Harwichport on Cape Cod. She retired and moved to Florida.

20. The Alfano family on Suffield Street near Rocky's Hardware had some of the brightest students ever at AHS. Geraldine was a '63, Gerald was a '68 and Lucia was a '54. I gave Geraldine's son Paul Tisdell his first haircut back in the '60s.

Emails were received from Alice B. and R. Haseltine, who both knew that Alice was older than Raymond. Sounds like it could be insider information. Larry Scherpa said it would have been a lot easier if all 181 Yesterday's Hometown News columns were on the computer. In my spare time!

Walt Willard went to AHS and taught math there for 16 years. He can be reached at 413-786-7924. Call him. Walt loves your feedback and any and all information or tidbits you can offer.



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Obituaries

John B. Corcoran, 80

John B. Corcoran, 80, a well-loved and devoted friend and husband, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015, in Mercy Medical Center. John was born in West Springfield on Aug. 28, 1935, and was one of five children of James and Mary (McCann) Corcoran. John served

his country in the U.S. Army. He was a graduate of West Springfield High School and attended Western New England College, where he studied accounting. He worked for 40 years as foreman for the West Springfield Forestry Department. Always keeping busy, after John retired he worked for the Big E in the information area and was an active member of the Agawam St. Patrick's Float Committee. He was proud to be named Parade Marshal in 2009 for the Agawam St. Patrick's Day Parade.

He was a member of St. John the Evangelist Church. John enjoyed his daily walks and talks with friends and trips to Cape May, New Jersey and Cape Cod with his extended family. He will be remembered for his ability to build anything — a true handyman; his love for animals; and how he always said nice things about everyone — a sincere and charismatic man.

John is survived by his adored wife of 56 years, Connie (Falcone) Corcoran; his cherished niece who is more like their daughter, Diane Goodman of Agawam; his sister, Anna May Kelleher and her husband John of West Springfield; numerous nieces

and nephews; and his loving animals, Pandi, Cali and Bella. Besides his parents, John was predeceased by his brother, James C. Corcoran Jr.; and his sisters, Marilyn Mackusick and Regina Newman.

Connie and Diane would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Thomas and Margaret Albano, Peter and Eleanor Majka, Daniel and Sonia Przybyla, Peppo and Gina Odierna, Walter and Anna (Chickie) Valego, and Dr. Bonacum and all the nursing staff at Mercy Medical ICU for their special care.

Per John's request, services will be private and his burial will be in Agawam Center Cemetery. A memorial Mass will be held at a later date. Donations may be made in his memory to Dakin Humane Society, 171 Union St., Springfield, MA 01105.

Elizabeth A. Drabik, 77

Elizabeth Anna (Guidi) Drabik, "Betty," 77, of Salisbury Road, Sheffield, Mass., passed away on Easter Monday morning, April 6, 2015, at Fairview Commons Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Great Barrington. Betty was afflicted with the periodic paralysis form of muscular dystrophy and struggled against the debilitating effects of progressive muscular weakening in the latter years of her life.

Born on May 13, 1937 in Springfield, she was the daughter of the late Harold and Elizabeth Guidi, and sister to the late Harold Guidi, all of Agawam. She graduated from Agawam High School (Class of 1955) and Westfield State Teacher's College. Betty married Henry Drabik in January 1959.

After leaving Westfield with her husband and two sons, Betty was a

homemaker in Bellows Falls, Vt., and Amenia and Chatham, N.Y. In the remaining years she was a longtime resident of the Berkshires for over 40 years, first living in Southfield with her family and then in Sheffield, following divorce. She was a good friend to many and positively contributed to the communities where she lived and worked as an elementary school teacher and as a library aide at the Bushnell Sage Library.

Most importantly, she was a wonderful mother who loved her family dearly. She was happiest when she could be with her family and could also enjoy her grandchildren who brought her great joy. Her friend and companion for many years was her cocker spaniel Buffy. Betty was intelligent, inquisitive, and she loved to read. She was an excellent cook as well as an avid and die-hard Boston Red Sox fan.

She is survived by her two sons, their wives and children: Michael, Linda and Maya Drabik of Bolton, Mass., and Mark, Barbara, Matthias, and Guinevere Drabik of Omaha, Neb.

The memorial service celebrating the life of Elizabeth Anna Drabik will be in St. Peter's Catholic Church, 213 Main St., Great Barrington, on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 10 a.m. The burial will take place privately. Memorial gifts in the name of Elizabeth Drabik may be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Remembrances may be sent to her family through www.finnertyandstevens.com.

The sincerest thanks go out to the many people and organizations that supported Betty during her difficult final days, special considerations to Priscilla Cote, Bonnie Eichorn with her staff of Mountainview Healthcare.

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

DEATH NOTICES

Aversa, Antonio C. Jr.
Died Nov. 13
Funeral Nov. 19
Curran-Jones Funeral Home
Agawam

Corcoran, John B.
Died Nov. 14
Private funeral
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam

Drabik, Elizabeth A. (Guidi)
Died April 6
Memorial Service Nov. 21
St. Peter's Catholic Church
Great Barrington

Fuller, Bradford W.
Died Feb. 13
Private funeral
Agawam Funeral Home

Hendricks, Carol M.
Died Nov. 11
Funeral Nov. 16
Agawam Funeral Home

Walsh, Richard M.
Died Nov. 12
Funeral Nov. 17
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam

Williamson, Catherine
Died Nov. 10
Funeral Nov. 13
Agawam Funeral Home

Community Newspapers Thrive!

TABLE FOR TWO

Thanksgiving leftovers

It is the day after Thanksgiving, you have lots of leftovers and you are not in the mood to prepare another big meal for your family and out of town guests. So let me give you a few ideas with a little different variety.

How about a cold appetizer of turkey salad stuffed into mini phyllo cups? These phyllo cups are usually found in the frozen food section of your grocery store and are already baked and ready to serve.

Mix equal parts of chopped turkey, stuffing, and mashed potatoes and heat in the microwave or bake until hot. Place a bite-size amount in spoons and drizzled with hot gravy.

Leftover vegetables can be tossed cold with Italian dressing and served as a salsa with tortilla chips. Mixing equal amounts of corn with black beans (rinsed well) and adding chopped raw veggies such as celery, cucumbers, red or green bell pepper, scalions or red onion are all good choices.

You can "stretch" your desserts by cutting the leftover pumpkin pie (or any pie) into small squares and serve them in cupcake liners and top with whipped cream.

Here is another great leftover recipe.

Turkey meatballs

1 ½ C. very finely chopped cooked turkey

4 oz. can sliced mushrooms, drained and finely chopped (1/2 C.)
½ C. leftover stuffing
1 egg

½ C. cranberry sauce (jellied or whole berry)
½ C. BBQ sauce



Ann Macey
Guest Columnist

Combine turkey, mushrooms, stuffing mix, and egg until well blended. (I use a food processor, but it is not necessary.) Roll mixture into balls using a tablespoon to measure. Place meatballs on a cookie sheet lined with foil that has been sprayed with nonstick cooking spray. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 30-35 minutes or until heated through. While meatballs are baking, heat cranberry sauce and BBQ sauce in a small saucepan over medium-high heat until hot and bubbling. Add cooked turkey meatballs to sauce and serve hot. NOTES: If desired, add a little orange zest and/or finely chopped rosemary to the sauce for added flavor. If you don't have any leftover stuffing, use ½ cup dry stuffing mix.

Ann Macey is the author of "ANN'S TABLE FOR TWO: Quick & Easy Two Serving Recipes." Ann welcomes your questions and comments. You may contact her at Annstable@gmail.com.

School Committee Meeting

Roberta G. Doering School
68 Main Street
Tuesday, Nov. 24 - 7 p.m.

- 6 p.m. — Legal Update Workshop
Call to order
1. Moment of silence
2. Roll call of attendance
3. Regular meeting — 7 p.m.
4. Citizen's Speak Time
5. Highlights on Education: Perfect MCAS Score Awards
6. Superintendent's Notes
7. Student Advisory Committee representative update
8. Unfinished Business:
a. SCR-15-24, Approval for the Academy of Artistic Performance to use the AHS gymnasium for a Baton Twirling Contest on Dec. 6, 2015
b. SCR-15-25, Approval of revised job description for a Primary Preventionist
9. Business meeting:
a. Routine Matters
1) Approval of Minutes
2) Calendar/Correspondence
b. Warrants/Transfers
c. Reports:
1) Scheduled Reports:
• Personnel Update (paper report)
• Financial Update (paper report)
2). Subcommittee Updates
10. New Business: None
11. Any other items that may legally come before the committee
12. Adjournment

Dave's food drive to benefit homeless pets

Dave's Soda and Pet City is teaming up with Kane's Crusade, Feline Friends, Second Chance Animal Shelter, and T.J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center to host a food drive to make sure that shelter animals have the food they need this holiday season.

Dave's Furry Friends Food Drive began Nov. 16 and will run through Dec. 20 at all seven of Dave's Soda and Pet City locations, including the one at 151 Springfield St., Agawam. Drop boxes for donations will be available during store hours. Local shelters are in need of both wet and dry dog and cat food. Small animal food and other pet supplies will also be accepted.

The most requested items are grain-free treats, dry dog food, canned dog and cat food, lid products, large dog treats (pig ears, rawhide), Purina Cat Chow-Indoor, Friskies Canned Food (shredded/shreds), and cleaning products.

Opening available on zoning board

Christopher Johnson, president of the Agawam City Council, has announced that there is an opening effective Jan. 1 for one regular position on the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals. Interested parties should contact Barbara Bard in the City Council office at 413-726-9716 or email bbard@agawam.ma.us as soon as possible.

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Ayden Vrijenhoek leads the way this year in a charity walk and bike ride he began last year to raise money for Loaves & Fishes. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ayden’s Ride raises \$3K for pantries

The second annual Ayden’s Ride for Life event was held Sunday, Nov. 8, at School Street Park in Agawam. The annual charity walk and bike ride, started in 2014 by then 6-year-old Ayden Vrijenhoek and sponsored by the Agawam Congregational Church, was attended by over 100 riders and walkers. Thanks to the generosity of

the participants and those who sponsored them, the event raised a total of \$3,270. One hundred percent of this money will be donated to the Agawam Congregational Church’s Loaves & Fishes project and the West Springfield Parish Cupboard, which serves West Springfield and Agawam residents.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 284 calls for service from Nov. 10 to Nov. 16. There were no arrests recorded in the Police Department’s public log.

FIRE LOG

Fire logs for Nov. 4 through 17 were not received by press time. They will be printed in a future edition of the Agawam Advertiser News.

Snowflake Luncheon is back this Saturday

The Snowflake Luncheon will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, at the Jingle Valley Fair at the First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main St. The menu will include southern chicken casserole, cranberry Jell-O mold salad, fresh carrots, dessert and beverage. The cost is \$8 per person.

Library ‘crafternoons’ for grownups in Dec.

The Agawam Public Library will host “Adult Crafternoons” from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays, Dec. 5 and 12. Adults who have holiday gifts to wrap out of the way of prying eyes, need some time to themselves to finish that last project, or just need the space to spread everything out are invited to bring their crafts and wrapping to the library at 750 Cooper St., Agawam. Just be sure to leave the kids at home. To register for one ‘crafternoon’ or both, call 413-789-1550, ext. 4, or visit www.agawamlibrary.org.

Sit, Knit instructor returns next month

The Agawam Public Library’s weekly drop-in knitting program, Sit & Knit, which runs the first Tuesday of the month from December through May, will begin next month. Those interested are invited to bring sticks and strings, meet other knitters, and maybe learn something new. This free program for adults is open to the public and no registration is required. Knitting instructor Sandy Ellis will be on hand at the library at 750 Cooper St. from 1 to 3 p.m. to teach new techniques and assist with knitting problems.

GOLF ■ from page 1

firmed through Roberto the town received the refund. All but three members of the council agreed mismanagement was one of the reasons for the bill remaining unpaid. The councilors also agreed E-Z-GO bears some responsibility for the bill and said the mayor should negotiate some sort of accommodation for the bill. “E-Z-GO waited a long time before trying to recover the money, and it was their error that led to this issue,” said Letellier. Council President Christopher Johnson, a practicing lawyer and former mayor, said rejecting the fund transfer to pay the bill does not hurt the town. He believes municipal bidding laws protect the town, since E-Z-GO failed to seek repayment of the bill during the same fiscal year the bid was awarded. “I don’t believe E-Z-GO has a case,” said Johnson. Cohen said Tuesday morning he will

consult with the town’s Law Department on the town’s recourse for resolving the issue with E-Z-GO, but he disagreed with the council decision from a moral standpoint. “We received this beverage cart and we are using it and making money with it,” said Cohen. “E-Z-GO admitted an error. Mistakes happen. I believe we have a moral obligation to return the money.” Councilor George Bitzas said his conscience would not allow him to vote against paying the bill. “Paying this bill is decent business,” said Bitzas. “And the town should do decent business.” Councilors Anthony Suffriti and Joseph Mineo, both members of the Finance Subcommittee, said the town should pay the bill because the town received the product and it is in use. But after the rest of the council had its say, both Suffriti and Mineo voted with the majority.

MOTEL ■ from page 1

detectors in each room, and the cleanup of several areas of the motel that had blocked fire exits. Toney said the town and motel are still waiting on the decision of an appeal to the Massachusetts Fire Commission’s Automatic Sprinkler Appeals Board. “We are expecting a decision to come within the next month or so,” said Toney. Toney said in the month following the early August agreement between the town and the motel, police and fire-EMS calls to the motel had dropped. That changed recently. “We have seen an uptick in the number of calls in the past month, month-and-a-half,” said Toney. “I have not tabulated all the calls and separated out the various incidents, but it is a concern.” Toney would not confirm if the town is still seeking to have the business demolished or placed in receivership, if the police calls are deemed excessive by town officials. “I cannot comment on that at this time,” he said. According to the original court papers, there were 184 calls to 23 Suffield St. during the first six months of 2015. Among them, two unattended deaths and 22 arrests have occurred there. The Fire Department responded to 70 calls during that same time period. The papers stated the condition of the property

was unreasonable and interfered with the public health and safety. It was described as a risk to the public and a waste of public resources. DiSanti has said Yoo and his staff worked quickly to remedy the code issues at the motel. In July, DiSanti said the calls to the motel had been mostly for issues with transient guests and the people that were living there on a more permanent basis were not an issue for public safety departments. “There have been 67 responses by the Fire Department for EMS services,” said DiSanti said in August. “People get sick. It is not a crime to call an ambulance.” He said the large number of police calls is deceiving, because very often, a police car accompanies any ambulance calls. “It’s really not as many calls as people think,” said DiSanti. DiSanti also contended the Police Department targets the motel, because officers check the guest log and often find people with outstanding warrants. He says there are few incidents happening at the motel that require a police presence. As part of its lawsuit against the motel, the town has also sought to have non-transient guests removed. Town officials say the motel is only licensed to house guests for up to 30 days; DiSanti, earlier this year, said the motel has always served a population of long-term residents — some for as long as 14 years — and is grandfathered in.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Powder mineral
5. Ten million (in India)
10. Culture medium and a gelling agent
14. Cain and ___
15. Bullfighting maneuvers
16. Baseball’s Ruth
17. Venice beach
18. Infirm due to old age
19. Attentiveness
20. Mortify
22. Whale (Norwegian)
23. Family Bufonidae
24. “A Passage to India” author
27. Ocean
30. Dad’s partner
31. Owned
32. Swiss river
35. Female golf star Gibson
37. Base
38. A way to summons
39. Acquit

CLUES DOWN

40. Male parent
41. Brendan Francis __, author
42. Rattan
43. Aromatic hot beverage
44. Inflorescence
45. Former CIA
46. Make lace
47. Airborne (abbr.)
48. Thieving bird
49. H. Potter’s creator
52. Frequency
55. Nothing
56. More lucid
60. Riding mount
61. Deducted container weight
63. Molten rock
64. In this place
65. Ancient upright stone slab bearing markings
66. Rumanian Mures River city
67. Mentioned before
68. An heir (civil law)

CLUES DOWN

69. Without (French)
1. W. Samoan monetary unit
2. Baby’s feeding apparel
3. Queen of Sparta
4. Shut
5. Certified public accountant
6. Payment for release
7. Red twig dogwood
8. Basked in
9. Midway between E and SE
10. A way to detest
11. Mother of Cronus
12. In bed
13. Bolsheviks
21. Farro wheat
23. CNN’s Turner
25. Farmers of America
26. Small amount
27. ___ and Venzetti
28. Hers in Spanish
29. Belongs to sun god

32. Expressed pleasure
33. Small terrestrial lizard
34. Regenerate
36. Own (Scottish)
37. The cry made by sheep
38. Chest muscle (slang)
40. Explode
41. Notice
43. Pitch
44. Run due to the batter
46. Fight referee declares
47. Alternate forms of a gene
49. Shifted in sailing
50. One who cables
51. Elaborate celebrations
52. Expresses pleasure
53. Carbamide
54. Persian in Afghanistan
57. 1st capital of Japan
58. Welsh for John
59. Radioactivity units
61. Tanzanian shilling
62. Hyrax

Answers on page 15

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How close do you want it?

Shop to be shut, but barber plans to stay in business making house calls

By Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com

There's just a week left until Old Center Barbershop closes, but owner Joe Demetron isn't ready to cut out yet.

Demetron, who has owned the barbershop on Main Street since 1983, plans to continue giving haircuts even after he closes his doors next Saturday. He's simply converting to a new business model — house calls.

"I'm still going to stay cutting hair," he said this week. "I don't want them to think I'm out of circulation. Just that I'll be going to their house instead of them coming to my business."

Demetron said business at community barbershops has declined in recent years because of increased competition from chain shops, and the increasing preference of younger men to patronize unisex hairstylists. He also said his shop was dealt a blow by roadwork on Main Street a couple years ago; customers found it difficult to reach him through the construction zone, and when the work was done, they didn't come back. He points to several other vacant storefronts in the plaza at Main and School streets.

"The roadwork on Main Street just devastated business," said Demetron. "If it wasn't for my second job — I work for UPS — I would have been gone from there a year ago."

Meanwhile, he had always made occasional house calls to his regular customers, when they were temporarily homebound or in the hospital. As time went on, a few of those customers told him that they actually preferred getting haircuts in the comfort of home. They also appreciated him running errands and doing light housework for them, for an extra fee.

"A lot of times, they'll have me come to their house and ask me to pick up a few items, whether it's a script or a few groceries," he said. "It's more than just a haircut, for some people it's an extra service. ... I've always been on call for my [regular] customers. It'll be for everybody now."

Demetron said he knows other barbers have made occasional house calls, but he doesn't know anyone who's ever converted a hair business entirely to home visits. Though the concept is novel, he hopes to keep some of his regulars and pick up a few more by word of mouth.

A resident of Ludlow and former resident of Feeding Hills, Demetron grew up in Springfield and graduated from the Academy of Stylists in Hartford in 1977. He came to Agawam after seeing a newspaper advertisement seeking an apprentice barber at Tisdell Barbershop, working with shop owner Eddie Straszko.

Five years later, Straszko sold the business to Demetron, who renamed it Old Center Barbershop, after the neighborhood. Over the years, Demetron remained the



Joe Demetron cleans an electric clipper at Old Center Barbershop in Agawam earlier this month. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



The Nov. 22, 1983, Agawam Advertiser News shows "young Joe Demetron" at work shortly after purchasing the former Tisdell Barbershop, where he had apprenticed for five years, on Main Street. SUBMITTED PHOTO

only full-time employee, although from time to time he took on part-time help, generally from barbers who had retired from full-time jobs. He is the only current employee at the shop.

Old Center Barbershop's last day in business is Nov. 28. Joe Demetron can be reached at 413-575-9854 for home appointments or more information.

Agawam director, actress in Players' holiday benefit

SUFFIELD — An ensemble of 15 talented local thespians from Massachusetts and Connecticut, including actress Kim Spero of Agawam, are gathering to produce four holiday themed one-act plays, plus a bonus festive monologue, on Dec. 4 and 5 at 8 p.m., and Dec. 6 at 2 p.m., at Mapleton Hall in Suffield. The five directors include Mark Proulx of Agawam.

The production, "4 X'Mas," is the Suffield Players' 2015 holiday benefit, with all proceeds going toward the upkeep and maintenance of Mapleton Hall, the troupe's historical theater. No reservations are being taken; admission is a \$10 suggested donation at the door.

Performances include the famous Teacup Raffle, in



Mark Proulx



Kim Spera

which audience members get to bid on donated goods and services packaged up prettily by Suffield Players volunteers into festive baskets, bags and boxes.

In addition to Proulx, directors include Robert Lunde, Roger A. Ochs, Konrad Rogowski and Kelly Seip. Cast members, along with Spero, are Ken Aveline, Karen Balaska, Rachel Ballasy, Benjamin Buck, Rachel Berezin, Karyn Burns, Bob Demetrius, Lynn Faherty, Zach Gray, Anna Marie Johansen, Helen Malinka, Melissa Otero, Dana Ring and Christine Zdebski.

For more information about "4 X'Mas," email thesuffieldplayers@gmail.com or visit www.suffieldplayers.org.

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Youth

Academic honorees find time for sports, volunteering

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

AHS seniors Christie Mirski and Joe Moccio had no idea they were both receiving the same prestigious award until one day while sitting together at lunch.

“We had no clue that we were both award recipients,” recalled Moccio.

On Nov. 10, they each received a 2015 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Certificate of Academic Award. The award is presented by local superintendents to seniors who have achieved academic success — Mirski and Moccio both have an “impressive” 4.33 GPA and rank in the top 5 of their class.

Agawam School Superintendent William Sapelli, who presented Mirski and Moccio with their awards at a School Committee meeting, said the award criteria include students’ three-year cumulative average of class ranking and overall school citizenship.

The two 17-year-olds share many interests, from a love of basketball to making their academic work a priority to volunteering to help young children.

‘Pretty big honor’

Moccio, who called the award “a pretty big honor,” said it’s important to him because it recognizes how hard he’s worked in the classroom. He added that he and Mirski get some of the best grades in their class.

“We always challenge ourselves in the classroom,” he added.

Mirski said her teachers are “passionate” about the subjects they teach to prepare her for college.

“They challenge me to perform to the highest level of my ability. I have very good relationships with all my teachers and principals. They really like to see students succeed.”

Moccio said he’s received a “solid” education at AHS. “It will help me down the road when I use what I’ve learned,” he added.

A member of the girls basketball and lacrosse teams, Mirski is also involved in student government, is a member of the school’s Key Club, and is a peer tutor. Outside of school, she’s an assistant coach for the annual Mass Frenzy basketball tournaments (and also runs the clocks), rings the bell for the Salvation Army, assists at the Winter Special Olympics, and volunteers at a special education summer school.

“I’m involved with several sports teams and organiza-



AHS seniors Joe Moccio, left, and Christie Mirski, shown with Principal Steve Lemanski, recently were honored with a superintendent's award for academic success. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

tions, but I find a way to put my academics first,” she added.

Moccio’s played varsity basketball ever since his sophomore year and is a member of the Key Club and the Chiefs, a student advisory group to the principal. He’s made the honor roll every year since fifth grade and is a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. He played football this year until he fractured his left clavicle.

One of Moccio’s volunteer activities is helping at basketball camps for younger kids in town.

“My favorite thing to do is playing basketball — and seeing these kids play reminds me of myself at their age,”

he said.

Sometimes making sure his homework is completed for the next day leads to some late nights. But he has a secret to academic success: naps. “I get my fair share of naps in so I’m still able to function.”

‘A major difference’

Presented each fall, the MASS award is considered a valuable addition to credential packages and counselor recommendations when the recipients apply to colleges.

Moccio said it will be “a major difference” when colleges look at recognitions students have received.

“With only two students from our town being selected for this award, it will stick out on a resume, for sure,” he said.

Mirski said the award will show colleges that her academic work didn’t go unnoticed in her community: “I think colleges will appreciate this award.”

Although Mirski is excited about going to college, she’s still undecided about where she will apply and is still forming her lists. Moccio, on the other hand, already knows he will apply to five schools: Bentley, Bryant, Boston University, Northeastern and UConn.

Moccio plans to major in finance with a concentration in business administration.

“I’ve always enjoyed working with numbers, so something along the lines of finance/accounting would be ideal,” he said.

Mirski is leaning toward business management, but her dream is to become a basketball coach on the side: “Basketball is my passion.”

No matter what they decide for their futures, Moccio and Mirski will likely succeed. AHS Principal Steve Lemanski called them “leaders amongst their peers” and “stellar performers” in their academics. “Their academic status and sense of community put them at the top of the list for this award.”

Mirski said her family was very supportive and happy for her when they learned about the award. “My father was especially excited because he knows how hard I work,” she added.

Jennifer and Steven Moccio said they are “very excited” that their son’s scholastic accomplishments were recognized by the school administration. “Joe takes school very seriously. He makes school look easy, but we know how hard he works for his grades. We’re incredibly proud of his efforts and accomplishments.”

School Lunch

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school’s website.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, Nov. 23: Popcorn chicken bites with dipping sauce, mashed potatoes, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Nov. 24: Whole-grain pancakes with turkey bacon, hash browns, strawberry cup, orange juice.

Wednesday, Nov. 25: Half day. No lunch.

Thursday, Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Day. No school.

Friday, Nov. 27: Thanksgiving recess. No school.

ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST MENU

Monday, Nov. 23: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, cinnamon graham crackers, mozzarella cheese string, juice.

Tuesday, Nov. 24: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted nutri-grain bars, mozzarella cheese string, juice.

Wednesday, Nov. 25: Mini waffles with syrup for dipping, mozzarella cheese string, 1 percent low-fat milk, juice.

Thursday, Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Day. No school.

Friday, Nov. 27: Thanksgiving recess. No school.

Jr. Women schedule Breakfast with Santa

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s Club will host the annual Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday, Dec. 6, at the Roberta Doering Middle School, 68 Main St., Agawam.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. The menu will include

pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice or milk. There will be pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, letters may be dropped off, and those in attendance may enter a raffle for a new toy. There will also be free books and a story walk provided by the Agawam Family and Community Program.

Breakfast with Santa set for Nov. 29

The Agawam Knights of Columbus will host Breakfast with Santa from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29, at St. John’s Parish Center, 833 Main St., Agawam.

Tickets are \$7 for those 12 and older and free for children under 12. There will be gifts for children and pictures courtesy of MD Photography.

For more information, call Bill Tessicini at 413-789-0540.

Community Newspaper ADVERTISING Works!

Retailers and small local businesses put the lion’s share of their local advertising in newspapers. They know which media truly moves their products. Besides that, Google’s research shows that half of online shoppers are more likely to buy products they’ve seen in the paper.

Agawam High School Counseling bulletin

Open Houses/Informational Sessions/Discovery Days: Many colleges are hosting events in the next few weeks. Check each college website for more information and to confirm the date and time of the event.

Amherst College: Sessions daily at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Culinary Institute of America (N.Y.), Nov. 20; Adelphi University: Nov. 21; Southern Vermont College, Nov. 21; Newbury College: Nov. 22; Seton Hall University, Nov. 22; Mass. College of Liberal Arts, Nov. 22; Wentworth Institute of Technology: Nov. 22.

Special interest programs

Jr. Tech Inc., a Massachusetts-based non-profit that has delivered experiential STEM education programs in Massachusetts for the past 10 years, is offering Girls STEM Summit on Sunday, April 10, at Regis College in Weston. The focus is on girls in grades 8-12 who are interested in or curious about careers in the STEM fields. The registration fee is \$55 per student and includes all speakers, hands-on sessions, lunch and snacks, giveaways and a take home gift. Call 617-512-1794 with any questions.

Springfield Technical Community College is again offering the chance for current juniors and seniors to take up to one free course in the spring and summer semesters through the College Now program. This is a great way to earn college credits while in high school while trying courses that may be helpful in exploring a potential career interest. See your counselor for details.

Elms College is offering an Advanced Placement program which allows eligible students to enroll in one three-credit course in the spring semester and receive full college transfer credit to the Elms or another academic institution of their choice. While tuition is waived, students will pay a \$20 registration fee and \$50 technology fee. Registration for the spring semester is Jan. 20. Those interested should see their counselor for more information.

Elms College will host STEM Day on Saturday, Dec. 5. The theme is “The Science and Technology of What We Eat.” The program will include workshops taught

by faculty in biotechnology and GM foods, chemistry of combustion, mathematical modeling, computer programming, physiology of taste, and macromolecules. For more details and to register for the STEM Day, visit www.elms.edu/calendar/events/home-events/stem-day-12-5-15.

Attention sophomores, juniors and seniors: The ASVAB test is coming to Agawam High School on Dec. 8. The ASVAB Career Exploration Platform is a comprehensive career-planning program that includes a multiple aptitude test battery, an interest inventory, and various career planning tools designed to help you explore the opportunities awaiting you. Students will be able to identify, understand and organize information about their skills, interests and work-related values; identify suitable occupations to investigate and pursue based on their own skills, interests, and values; and use career information resources to further explore these occupations. See the Counseling Center for details.

Scholarship information

Students should see their counselor or visit the websites for more information or an application: Big Y Scholarship; John F. Kennedy Library Foundation; Skidmore College; The Young Entrepreneur Foundation; Westfield-West Springfield Elks Lodge 1481; Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps; Abbott & Fenner Business Consultants; Ronald McDonald House Charities; Jack Kent Cooke Foundation; American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program; GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program; Henry David Thoreau Foundation; Aspiring Animation Professional Scholarship.

Meritaid.com: On this free website, students can complete a profile and then access the college merit scholarships that match their profile. This organization does not sell its email lists to third parties. The site includes a comprehensive directory of merit scholarships and academic scholarships across the country.

Did You Know: Lincoln University is the oldest historically black university in the U.S. It was founded in 1854..



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Agawam High School Jazz Band saxophonist Ethan Chan, center, performs with master guitarist Jay Messer at EB's Restaurant in June. In the background at left is fellow Jazz Band member Dan Lavoie. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS FILE PHOTO

AHS jazz musician back at EB's

Two high school jazz band members will perform at the Youth Jazz Connection at EB's from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19. Alto and soprano saxophonist Ethan Chan from Agawam High School and tenor saxophonist Gavin Kelso from Westfield High School, along with special guest Joey Sicard on bass from Holyoke Community College, will play several numbers alongside West Springfield native and master jazz guitarist Jay Messer.

Messer, a jazz guitarist for 40 years, has performed Thursday nights for the past eight years at EB's Restaurant, on Walnut Street Extension in Agawam. Earlier this year, he approached EB's owner Ed Borgatti

to propose that he lead a youth jazz workshop to promote interest in the genre and encourage the next generation of jazz musicians.

Youth Jazz Connection at EB's is open to all local high schools with a jazz element in their music curriculum. Schools are invited back on a regular, rotating basis.

"The students will learn more about the genre, interpreting melody and improvisation," Messer said. "They'll also get a taste of what it's like to play in front of a small, intimate gathering, which jazz often is. I hope it not only instills in them the desire to continue forward with jazz, but persuade others to join them."



Proceeds from the can and bottle drive will support the Purple Heart Trail along Main Street in Agawam. Pictured, from left, are parent Deanna LeBlanc, Den Leader Wendy Rua, Austin LeBlanc, parent Tony Fillion, Den Chief Christian Rua, Lucas Fillion, Timothy Rua, Tyler Gervais, Anthony Norman, parents Mario Rua and Shannon Gervais, and veteran Gary Janulewicz. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cub Scouts' bottle drive raises \$200

On Saturday, Nov. 14, Cub Scouts from Den 2, Pack 77, held a can and bottle drive at Sacred Heart Parish in Feeding Hills, 9-10:45 a.m.

This was the scouts' first-ever community service project. Their goal was to raise \$100 to sponsor a Purple Heart sign on Main Street in Agawam in honor of our veterans. Not only did they achieve their goal, but they raised over \$200.

The temperature was about 40 degrees and at times they saw snowflakes, but the seven Wolf Scouts of Den 2 chased cans that were blowing away, held signs and waved at passersby while their noses were turning red.

They counted to 200 repeatedly to fill bags to bring the recycling center. The donations kept coming for an extra half-hour after the can and bottle drive was scheduled to end. Local news media came to film the scouts in action. And local veteran Gary Janulewicz came to help and he praised the boys for their community spirit and volunteerism.

Den 2 Cub Scouts will be honored for their work at an upcoming pack meeting. And paperwork is being completed for the sponsorship of the sign and for two wreaths to be placed at the Veterans Cemetery for Wreaths Across America Day.

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Members of the 2009-10 AHS Marching Mohawks pose for a photo on the school's bleachers. SUBMITTED PHOTO

GAMES ■ from page 1

remaining in Western Massachusetts. Bill Hueglin, the school's current band director, said that puts AHS in "a unique position to be the standard bearer" in this area.

Based on conversations with other band directors in Western Massachusetts — and from Hueglin's experience attending statewide marching band competitions — he said AHS is the only group representing this part of the state.

"Travelling and competing keeps the level of our programs elevated well beyond what other schools are able to put on the field," added Jessica Cleveland, a color guard instructor and a special education teacher at AHS.

She said the band's color guard gives students an opportunity to be part of a unique group. The school's first color guard was formed in 1955 when a group of female students not selected as cheerleaders wanted to express their school spirit. The original group was nine girls — five carried flags and four "guarded" the U.S. flag with wooden rifles.

The color guard is known as the "sport of the arts," according to Cleveland: "It combines the grace of dance, the focus of gymnastics, and the expressiveness of theater into one art that also requires training in weapon work and flag tricks."

Community event

Cleveland and another AHS alumna, Stephanie Keenan — both former AHS color guard members — helped rekindle interest in the group several years ago. Cleveland said having so many students participating and performing in a variety of ways at football games enhances the experience as a whole community event.

"Spectators may not be there to specifically watch the football game, but they may be there to support a performer. They buy tickets and concessions, and all those funds go to athletics or the football booster club," Cleveland added.

With the Brownies undefeated until last Friday, there has been much celebration around this year's team and its spectacular season. However, AHS Principal Steve Lemanski said Agawam High School and the town should also be "proud and appreciative" of the many non-athletes who also performed at the games.

"The atmosphere is much more heightened at the games with the marching band, the color guard, the cheerleaders, and the majorettes. There's a festive atmosphere — and it adds to the noise level that's very important to fans," Lemanski added.

Hueglin said AHS has created a tradition similar to that at Southern high schools where football games are huge community events with a number of musical, dance,

and cheerleading groups participating to create a lot of fun and a lot of entertainment.

More than cheering

Dave Stratton, director of athletics for Agawam schools, said the football team and coaches "truly appreciate" the band, color guard, and cheerleaders.

"They're all extremely hard-working and dedicated to their craft," said Stratton. "I love watching them perform."

When a schedule change several years ago prevented these groups from attending a home football game, he said, the atmosphere was noticeably different. That atmosphere includes cheerleaders who do more than just lead fans in cheers.

"Cheerleaders provide the spirit that radiates into the stands. They keep the crowd pumped up in every moment of the game," said Kimberly Wyckoff, AHS cheerleading coach and a Doering School teacher.

"If the team is winning, if the team is losing, if the weather is beautiful or not so good, their job is to project happiness and school spirit throughout the crowd," said Wyckoff. She added that one of the most vital skills AHS cheerleaders have is keeping "a positive attitude" at games.

'Part of the package'

"We're part of the package at football games. We care about how well we play as a team. We uplift the fans in the bleachers — whether we're winning or losing," said cheerleader Victoria Thomas.

"We try to do anything we can to motivate the team," added Alicia Mullen. Kayla Casamento said cheerleaders are also "positive role models" for spectators and young children watching them perform.

"Our job is to keep spirits up and encourage players to keep going and stay positive. We also keep the crowd excited and make sure they don't start to doubt our team," said Emily Whitman.

School Superintendent William Sapelli said students in these non-athletic activities are learning skills as valuable as learning English and math.

"It provides students with a purpose and gives them real-world experience — such as how to get along and work with



AHS cheerleaders at a recent football game form a pyramid as part of their role to keep fans and players in high spirits. SUBMITTED PHOTO

others, how to work as a team, how to accept defeat, or how to be gracious in victory. The leadership qualities they learn can be applied in life and in careers long after school," he said.



The 2015-16 AHS cheerleaders with Coach Kimberly Wyckoff. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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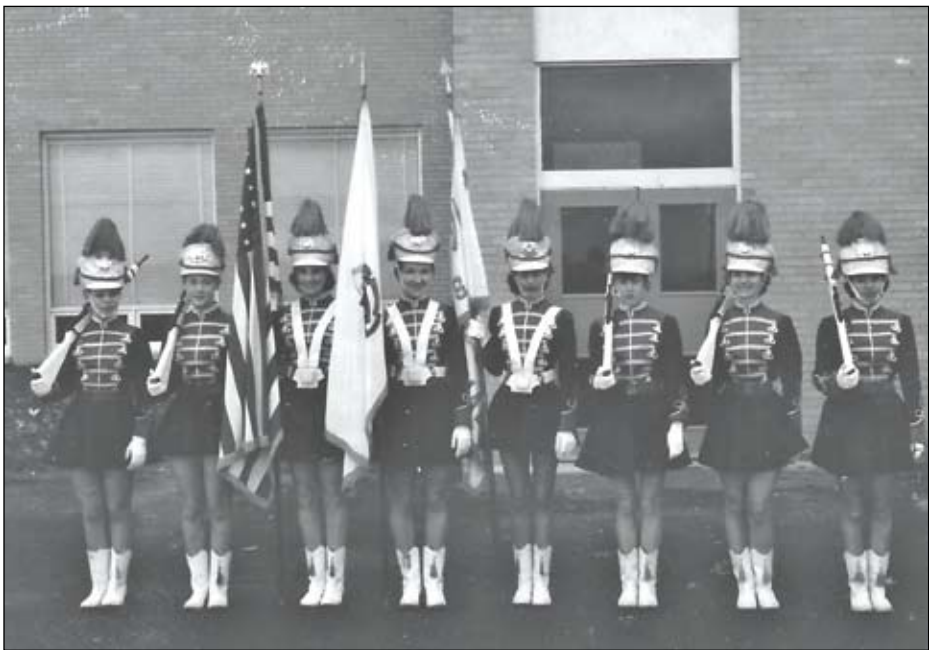
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The 1956-57 AHS band is pictured on the high school's stage just a year after it opened. SUBMITTED PHOTO



In 1960, several color guard members posed for a photo outside the high school. SUBMITTED PHOTO



AHS cheerleaders pose for a photo at a football game in the late 1950s. SUBMITTED PHOTO



The AHS color guard was formed in 1955 — a year before this photo was taken of the group marching in a Little League parade in Feeding Hills. SUBMITTED PHOTO



Members of the AHS color guard march in a parade at the Big E in 2014. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

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SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Brownies stunned by Chicopee Comp

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The Chicopee Comp football team shocked Agawam last Friday night with a touchdown in the closing seconds of the game to take a 44-36 victory in the Western Massachusetts Division 4 Championship Game.

The Colts denied Agawam from being a champion for a third straight season.

With a 36-36 tie, Agawam was driving down the field, looking for a score in the game's final 2:00. The Brownies even had the ability to get far enough to make it possible for Aiden Page to attempt a field goal.

But an interception on a ball tipped off an Agawam receiver and caught by Cam Kagan gave the Colts the ball back with less than a minute remaining.

On the final play, quarterback Trevor Johnson sent a lateral to Kagan on the far right.

Kagan moved toward the right sideline and passed to Dave Pedrazza, who ran the remainder of about 20 yards to the end zone, dodging a pair of Agawam defenders to score the game-win-

ning touchdown with 2.7 seconds remaining in the game.

The ensuing kickoff was not returned for a score and Comp had won its first title in eight years.

Colts' coach Tony Couture said his team did not give up all season long and believed his team was counted out after Agawam went 8-0 to start the season and had beaten Comp 40-20 earlier in the season.

"We went with simplified pass protection and our defense focused on stopping Agawam's run," said Couture. "We knew if they were going to beat us, we were going to make them do something different than what they normally do."

That definitely happen as Agawam was forced to go to the air on several occasions, bringing receivers like Kyle Paynter and Jacob Root into the mix.

Agawam quarterback Troy Gallerani connected with his receivers four times for 106 yards, throwing a touchdown pass to the far right of the end zone for a 32-yard score.

Agawam's running game did



The runner-up trophy is given to the Agawam captains. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

CHAMPIONSHIP | page 14

SOCCER

Lancers edge Brownies in finals

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

WESTFIELD – Last Saturday at Westfield State University, there were three sectional championship games held on Alumni Field.

After 280 minutes of soccer being played, there had only been one true goal scored.

And that goal did not happen during the Division 1 Boys Soccer final between Agawam and Longmeadow.

But during the penalty kick phase, one Agawam miss would give Longmeadow an edge, and Will Lukas clinched the victory with a made shot to give Longmeadow a 5-3 win and the Western Massachusetts Championship.

While Longmeadow was awarded a "goal" for winning the penalty kick phase of the game, no goals were scored between the two sides after 100 minutes of play.

Agawam and Longmeadow were meeting for the third time this season. The two teams are league rivals and Agawam owned a win and a tie against the Lancers, which were the No. 7 seed in the tournament.

No. 4 Agawam matched the Lancers defense for defense and shove for shove.

The game was physical and both teams worked to try and power the ball through the other teams, because finesse was defi-



Zach Rivers gets his head on the ball. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

nately out.

"I think both teams' defense really turned it up in this game," said Agawam coach Tom Smith. "Because we were not able to score anything and our defense also stepped up and gave us a great game."

Agawam started off on defense when Longmeadow was awarded a free kick early in the game. The free kick was served into the box, but goalie Sean Moore made the catch and cleared the ball away.

Agawam then picked up a free kick on a trip and had a direct opportunity from about 25 yards away. But the shot was caught by Longmeadow keeper Seth Travers.

Agawam's Chris Noto and Cameron Verville both received yellow cards during the first half, but both returned to action quickly.

In the second half, Longmead-

FINALS | page 14

FOOTBALL

Preparing for West Side

Brownies ready for Thanksgiving rival

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Despite a very tough loss last Friday night in which the top-seeded Brownies were stunned by Chicopee Comp, the focus has already shifted to West Springfield.

It will be the 91st meeting, with Agawam holding a major advantage all-time in the rivalry.

The games have been close ones in the past few years regardless of Agawam's stellar records and championship caliber teams

against West Springfield's .500 squads.

Agawam has won the last three games, squeaking by the past two years.

Last season, the Brownies and Terriers played in frigid conditions at West Springfield. A massive snowstorm dumped a foot of snow on Clark Field the night before the game, but good work on the part of West Springfield's grounds crew made the field playable in time for the traditional game.

RIVAL | page 14

TRACK

Dustin takes third at Championships

By Dave Forbes

Turley Publications Sports Staff Writer

WESTFIELD - For the second time in just a couple of weeks, most of the high schools from Western Massachusetts made the trek to Stanley Park to race the beautiful course there, this time in the District Championships.

Freshman Erin Dustin had a very strong performance for the Lady Brownies as she came in third place overall with a time of 19 minutes, 37.39 seconds.

Agawam had the girls come in 12th place at 307 points, while the boys came in 11th at 331 points.

Northampton won the girls race with 31 points, while Holyoke won the boys race at 60 points.

For the girls, after Dustin, se-

nior Collette Groux had the next best time as she came in 68th with a time of 22:58.82. Next was junior Lauren Lopez in 78th at 23:33.12, followed by sophomore Jenna Gravel in 79th at 23:33.63, sophomore Carina Nesen in 82nd at 23:38.33, senior Victoria Nascembeni in 87th at 23:48.89 and freshman Lena Tedeschi in 96th at 24:42.29

For the boys, freshman Jason Beaver had the best time as he came in 28th at 17:24.43. Junior Colin Czerpak came in 36th at 17:40.92, followed by senior Ryan Feyer in 79th at 18:42.47, junior Ricky Dialysis in 91st at 19:09.55, senior Bobby Johnston in 97th at 19:21.81, sophomore Brett Forgette in 99th at 19:27.94 and freshman Josh Conway in 104th at 19:40.20.

Sports

SOCCER

Malerba sends Agwam to finals

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Thanks to a scheduling snafu that came as a result of Agawam's potential field re-construction project, the Brownies boys soccer team did not have the opportunity to play neighboring rival Westfield during the regular season.

But the two teams would eventually match up last Thursday night with a trip to the Western Massachusetts Division 1 Championship game on the line.

It was a first half goal from Nick Malerba, a sophomore midfielder, that held up for the entire game. Sean Moore also played phenomenal as the No. 4 Brownies shut out the No. 1 Bombers 1-0 in the semifinals held at Berte Field at Springfield's Central High School.

Malerba would score during the 12th minute of the game. He was set up on the right side, and sent the ball in the air from a little more than 30 yards away from the net. The ball round the back of the net on the far right to give Agawam an early advantage.

With the 1-0 lead, Agawam's defense went to work. The Brownies defense has been one of its biggest strengths all year, and they needed that to be at its best against an aggressive Westfield team.

Moore was also on top of his game, making good decision after good decision and denying the Bombers on multiple occasions, including a couple of close calls early in the second half.

Agawam opened the second half with a chance to get an insurance goal. The Brownies threatened with their offense about 10 minutes. Luis Nieves would be able to get an opening and crossed the ball perfectly to the center, but no one was able to make contact to re-direct it to the net.

Westfield then picked up a few opportunities on the other side of the field. During that period, the game started getting more physical on both sides.

Nieves then got another shot with about 15:00 remaining in the game. He was able to get an opening on the left side of the net. He was able to get past Westfield goalie Ian Saltmarsh and set to take a shot on goal. But the shot was blocked by a Westfield defender, keeping the game 1-0.

The Brownies next opportunity came with about 9:00 remaining on a Brownie corner kick, but Saltmarsh was able to bat the ball away.

Westfield called time out with about 7:00 remaining.

Coach Tom Smith said he changed his configuration during the stoppage in play.

"I changed to a more defensive configuration," said Smith. "We knew they would be coming for our goal and I wanted to make sure we were keeping them from having scoring opportunities."

Smith rested forward Tym Regnier, who was dealing with an ankle injury suffered during Agawam's quarterfinal game against Ludlow. Regnier would be back for the fi-



Cameron Verville goes for the header. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

nals and was available to play if needed in the game.

Moore finished the game with a shutout and seven saves.



Nick Malerba tries to make a run up the sideline.



Anthony Sciarrelli tries to stop Westfield progression.

Brownie support

WESTFIELD – The Agawam football team had plenty of supporters there to watch them take on Chicopee Comp in the championship game at Westfield State University.



The Agawam cheerleaders show their spirit. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Members of the Agawam Pee-Wee football team hand out water on the sidelines.



Fans take cover during the rain-filled game.



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Sports

CHAMPIONSHIP ■ from page 12

return in the second half, with Chris Morassi and Nick Scuderi enjoying more success and helping Agawam stay in the game.

The Brownies trailed throughout the game, something they were not used to all season long.

"It was definitely a different situation for us," said Agawam coach John Benjamin. "We had to make some adjustments and we definitely could have tackled better."

Comp scored first when Johnson connected with Kagan in the opening drive of the game.

Chris Morassi's 17-yard run made it 7-6 Agawam, but Comp re-took the lead early in the second quarter 12-7.

Gallerani's long pass to Paynter made it 14-12 Agawam, but a 6-yard touchdown reception on a trick-play by Comp gave the Colts a 20-14 lead at the end of the second half 20-14.

Agawam received to open the third quarter, and Morassi made 44-yard run to tie the score 20-20.

Comp would score on the next possession, with Johnson connecting with Mason Labonte. Morassi countered with a short run to tie the score 28-28 with 4:37 remaining in the third.

Johnson connected with Corey Heath with 3:05 remaining to give the lead back to the Colts 36-28.

But Nick Scuderi tied the score with 4:45 remaining in the fourth quarter, Gallerani then connected with Marcus Williams on a huge pass for the conversion to tie the score 36-36.

Comp was denied on offense and punted back to Agawam with less than 2:00 remaining before the Kagan interception set up Comp's win.



Chris Morassi searches for an open lane.

Johnson went 18-for-34 for 320 yards and three touchdowns and two interceptions. Labonte had six catches for 122 yards and Pedraza had four catches for 117 yards.

Agawam's running game included 125 yards on 11 carries by Morassi. Scuderi ran 15 times for 72 yards.

Comp moves on to play in the state semifinals at Leominster's Doyle Field against Central Massachusetts Champion Grafton. The game will be played Saturday at 3 p.m. The finals are scheduled for Dec. 5 at Gillette Stadium.



Quarterback Troy Gallerani hands off to Nick Scuderi. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Aiden Page knocks away an extra point.



Max Molta is down after a run.



Jonathan Kelley's header blocks a scoring opportunity for Longmeadow.



Eugene Cone carefully chooses his path. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

FINALS ■ from page 12

ow had a little bit of an edge on possession, but neither team took many chances and defense continued to rule.

"I had shown the team some video we took against Ludlow about how we were playing defense," Smith said. "We incorporated that into our practices and we saw that play out on the field."

After 100 minutes, Agawam went to a five-on-five penalty kick round. Longmeadow was successful on all five shots. Dan Korotich made the first shot for the Brownies, but Noto was denied thanks to a diving save by Travers. Luis Nieves and Anthony Sciertelli both made their shots, but Will Lukas made the final shot for Longmeadow to clinch the round.

Smith said he was unhappy to see the game come down to penalty kicks, but it is part of the game.

"We all play with the same rules and we know that it is possible the game can come down to this," said Smith. "At the end, it's our fault because we did not put the ball in the net during the game."

Smith said he was very proud of the way his team performed this season.

"We exceeded people's expectations this season," said Smith. "I'm really proud of this group. These guys were so great to catch. Probably the most attentive team I have ever had."

Despite losing 12 seniors after this year, Smith will return some underclassman starters to next year's lineup, and says he is very optimistic for the team's future.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

RIVAL ■ from page 12

West Springfield had a major advantage early in the game, limiting the Brownies to just a Sean Moore field goal in the first half.

But the Brownies started putting it together in the second half, and outscored the Terriers 27-14 in the second half to force overtime.

Using the overtime format where each team has four plays to score from the 10-yard line, Agawam scored first on a 5-yard pass from quarterback Troy Gallerani to Fred Karl-Morin. Gallerani then connected with Jason Carleton for the conversion.

West Springfield would also score, but not get the conversion, giving the Brownies the 38-36 overtime victory. Agawam won 19-18 in 2013 and won 50-36 in 2012 after several years of West Springfield wins.

Agawam leads the all-time series 61-26-3.

Agawam coach John Benjamin said despite the finals loss, which occurred on West Springfield's home field, he and his team are looking forward to the game.

"A switch turns on and we start getting ready for this game," said Benjamin. "I have already started looking at game film and we started preparing on Monday."

Agawam will host the game likely for the final time on their grass field at Harmon A. Smith stadium. The stadium is due for a major upgrade with a new stadium and artificial turf to be installed.

"This means a lot to a lot of us on the coaching staff," said Benjamin. "A lot of us played on this grass field for many years. So it means a lot to us to be in this last game on the field."

Bids have gone out for the field project, and are due back next month. Construction is set for the spring and is supposed to be completed by football season, though next year's game will be at Clark Field.

The matchup will also be the final one for 20 members of Agawam's senior class.

"These guys all want to win this game, just like West Springfield's senior class does," said Benjamin.

No matter how well both teams have done during the regular season, the rivalry is a fresh matchup and both teams bring their best, Benjamin says.

"It's like its own section of the season, this game," he said.

West Springfield is fighting for a winning season, currently sitting at 5-5. The Terriers did not qualify for the Division 2 Tournament.

Agawam went 8-0 before losing in the finals of the tournament last Friday night against Chicopee Comp and are 8-1 heading into the traditional holiday matchup.

Kickoff is set for 10 a.m. in Agawam.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

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Friday, Nov. 20

LEAP AGILITY CLUB AKC DOG AGILITY TRIAL today through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mallary East and West on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield.

Saturday, Nov. 21

ST. JOHN'S HOLIDAY BAZAAR, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Center at 833 Main St., Agawam. Santa will be there and available for pictures.

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 745 Main St., annual Holly Wreath Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, Christmas Bazaar, parish center, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., vendor and tag sale items. Breakfast and lunch may be purchased. For more information, call Joanne Cappucelli at 413-786-7919 or email jjcappa@aol.com.

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR, Friends of the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. An opportunity for holiday shopping. For more information, call JoAnn Balakier at 413-789-0451.

THE SNOWFLAKE LUNCHEON will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jingle Valley Fair at the First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main St. Will include southern chicken casserole, cranberry Jell-O mold salad, fresh carrots, dessert and beverage. \$8 per person.

Sunday, Nov. 22

THE TALCOTT MOUNTAIN AGILITY CLUB COMPETITION today and tomorrow, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mallary East and Mallary West on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield. Dogs of all types and breeds compete on an obstacle course. Free admission.

Wednesday, Nov. 25

AGAWAM CLERGY COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE 7 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St. Offering will support the Parish Association for the Phil Coburn Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner at St. Thomas the Apostle School in West Springfield.

Thursday, Nov. 26

THE 34TH ANNUAL PHIL COBURN THANKSGIVING DINNER noon to 2 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle School, 75 Pine St., West Springfield. Deliveries to homebound

seniors start at 10:30 a.m. For rides or deliveries in Agawam, call the Senior Center at 413-821-0605, ext. 2. All are welcome.

Friday, Nov. 27

THE OLD DEERFIELD CRAFT FAIR today noon to 6 p.m.; tomorrow 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Better Living Center on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield. Admission, \$8; \$1 for kids 6-12. Discount coupon at www.deerfield-craft.org.

Tuesday, Nov. 24

THE AGAWAM FAMILY & COMMUNITY PROGRAM's Parent Café 3, 9:30-11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church; 6:30-8 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center. A presentation on "Holiday Happiness Tips." Offers participants ways to enjoy the holidays and not just survive them, and how to make them a holiday tradition, not the least favorite holiday obligation. Registration not required. Free coffee, tea and refreshments provided.

Thursday, Nov. 26

THE ANNUAL PHIL COBURN THANKSGIVING DINNER, noon to 2 p.m., St. Thomas the Apostle School, 75 Pine St., West Springfield. All are welcome for this dinner.

Tuesday, Dec. 1

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERT holiday program and open meeting, 10:30 a.m. Reception to follow. For more information, call Yolanda Martin at 413-736-0766 or email figo9654@aol.com.

Thursday, Dec. 3

A HOLIDAY SHOPPING FAIRE, 6 to 9 p.m., Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield St., Feeding Hills in the cafeteria. Proceeds to benefit the AJHS Washington D.C. Club travelers.

THE ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER OF WESTERN MASS. annual Christmas dinner at St. Anne Country Club, 781 Shoemaker Lane, Feeding Hills. Cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Reservations will be taken on a first-come basis. Tickets are \$40 and must be paid for in advance. Call Nancy at 413-827-9350 for reservations no later than Nov. 25.

Friday, Dec. 4

SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE SPECTACULAR at Bethany Assembly of God, corner of Route 57 and Main St., Agawam. 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday, 6 p.m. Sunday; same times Dec. 11, 12 and 13. Free admission. Pre-arranged seating for larger groups can be arranged by calling 413-789-2930. Nursery for infants provided for each presentation.

HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS SUFFIELD, Phelps-Hatheway House and Garden, today, tomorrow and Sunday. For more information, call 860-668-0055 or visit www.ctlandmarks.org.

Saturday, Dec. 5

ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR, Southwick Congregational Church, 488 College Highway, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 413-569-6362.

PET PHOTOS WITH SANTA, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Westfield Feed, 288 Union St., Westfield. \$10 for 5x7 photo; \$5 additional for digital file. First come, first-served. Cash or check only. Proceeds assist Open Arms Rescue, Inc. help animals in need.

Sunday, Dec. 6

AGAWAM JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB BREAKFAST WITH SANTA and Mrs. Claus, 8 a.m. to noon, Roberta Doering School, 68 Main St., Agawam. \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 12. Pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice or milk. Pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, letters may be dropped off, and those in attendance may enter a raffle for a new toy. Free books and a story walk provided by the Agawam Family and Community Program.

HOLIDAY CONCERT at St. George Cathedral, 22 St. George Road, Memorial Square, Springfield, 3:30 p.m. Donation: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12. Will feature the WSU Wind Symphony and Chorale, St. George Grand Chorale and Progressive Community Baptist Church choir. Tickets available at Baystate Noble Hospital, 115 W. Silver St., gift shop and community development office. Proceeds to benefit Baystate Noble Oncology Department.

A CARD AND COLLECTIBLE SHOW, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, 580 Meadow St. Admission \$1; kids under 10 free. Over 40 tables, a door prize drawing every 30 minutes. Handicap accessible. For more information, call 413-593-6046.

Wednesday, Dec. 9

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

Thursday, Dec. 10

A HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE to benefit the Suffield Middle School PTAC, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the school's gymnasium, 350 Mountain Road. Over 30 vendors will participate. Open to the public. For more information, contact Susi Keane at pskeane@cox.net.

Sunday, Dec. 13

A HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND VENDOR FAIR for Autism Speaks, 1 to 5 p.m., VFW, 63 Veterans Way, Springfield. Food, raffle prizes and pictures with Santa.

Friday, Feb. 12

DAN JONES, EDITOR OF THE NEW YOUR TIMES column "Modern Love," will share his stories and read from his books at 10:10 a.m. the 11:15 a.m. at Scibelli Hall at STCC as part of its free Ovations series. For more information, call 413-755-4233 or email pcodonoghue@stcc.edu.

ONGOING

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

MOM 2 MOM takes place the second Tuesday of every month October through June, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. A roundtable discussion hosted by a local "veteran" mom, this is a great way to have further conversation on recent café themes and parent education events, celebrate parenting and receive encouragement for the trials.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Rectory conference room, 833 Main St., Agawam. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email Rosemary Sandline at rosemarysandlin@gmail.com

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" every other Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needle-workers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

THE LADIES GLEE CLUB AND MEN'S CHOIR at the Springfield Turnverein, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, are back to work. Practice is held every Wednesday with the ladies beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the men at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. There is space available for anyone interested in joining.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

AN ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets the second Wednesday of each month at Heritage Woods Assisted Facility, 462 Main St., Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at 888-613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

Agawam Senior Center

Lunch Menu

Monday, Nov. 23: Pasta fagoile, low-sodium ham salad on whole-wheat, green bean salad, baked good.
Tuesday, Nov. 24: Kielbasa, kapusta, pierogis with fried onions, pudding.
Wednesday, Nov. 25: Roast pork loin, roasted potatoes and carrots, mixed fruit.
Thursday, Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Day. Senior Center closed.
Friday, Nov. 27: Cheese omelets, pancakes, muffins, orange juice, cantaloupe.

Calendar of Events

Monday, Nov. 23: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., line dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., bingo; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Tuesday, Nov. 24: 9 a.m., exercise, knitting class, sewing class; 10 a.m., Computer Tech Club meets, chair exercise; 12:30 p.m., mah jongg, movie ("St. Vincent"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., chorus; 4:30 p.m., yoga; 6 p.m., beginner line dance.
Wednesday, Nov. 25: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., Scrabble, ballroom lessons; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 1 meeting; 5:30 p.m., no Zumba Gold.
Thursday, Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Day. Senior Center closed.
Friday, Nov. 27: 8 a.m., yoga; 9:15 a.m., all media art; 10 a.m., tai chi; noon, canasta; 1 p.m., pitch, cribbage; 5:30 p.m., no Zumba Gold.

Legals

LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING
AGAWAM
CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, December 7, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.** at the Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Petition of Aziz Elias and R. Levesque Associates, Inc. on behalf of Ellsworth W. Smith, of Feeding Hills MA. for a proposed Zone Change Plan for 1004 Springfield Street, Agawam, MA. (Parcel ID# F10 6 18) The Zone Change request is to change the parcel from Agricultural and Business A to Residence A-3 in its entirety. A copy of the proposed Zone Change can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office or the Agawam City Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. in the Agawam City Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

BY ORDER OF:
Christopher C. Johnson
City Council President
11/19,11/26/15

LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING
AGAWAM
CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will conduct a public hearing on **Monday, December 7, 2014, at 7:00pm**, at the Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA to consider the adoption of a Residential Tax Factor pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 56 as submitted to the City Council by the Mayor on November 12, 2015.

The Resolution (TR-2015-48) is available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA between the hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. It is also available at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA and the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

BY ORDER OF:
Christopher C. Johnson
President of the City Council
11/19/15

SECTION 106
PUBLIC NOTICE

A Section 106 Review is being conducted for a rooftop antenna at 522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, Massachusetts 01030 at Latitude N42-04-56.63, Longitude W72-38-51.08. The antenna is pole mounted on the roof on an existing church building and

extends 82.4' above ground level. Lighthouse Christian Center seeks comments from all interested persons on the impact of the facility on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture, that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Specific information about the project, including the historic preservation reviews that Lighthouse Christian Center is conducting pursuant to the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (47 C.F.R. Sections 1.1307(4)) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 C.F.R. Part 800) will be made available to interested persons who request the information from the contact below. All questions, comments, and correspondence should be directed to Virginia Janssen, Principal Archaeologist, Dynamic Environmental Associates, Inc., 3850 Lake Street, Suite C, Macon, GA 31204, 877-968-4787, Sec106@DynamicEnvironmental.com by 12/19/2015. Re: 21511003. 11/19/15

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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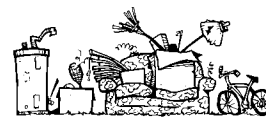
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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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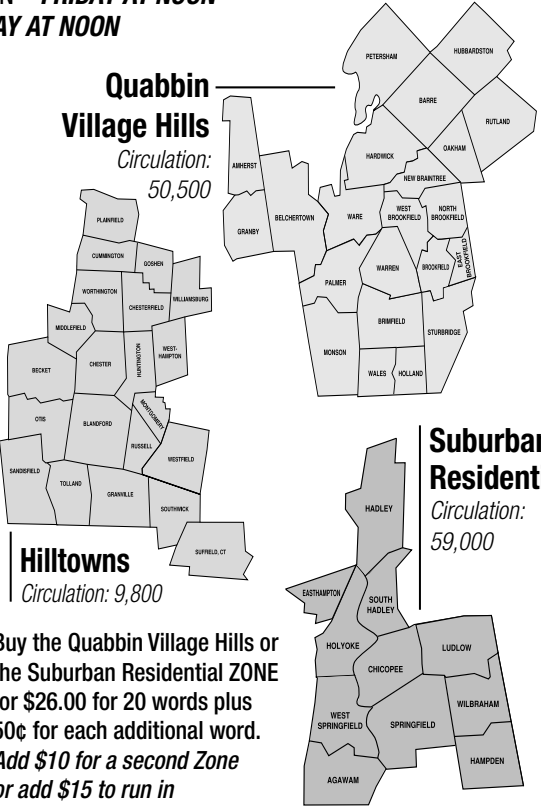
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17	18	19	20
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31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
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Our Town



RiverBend Medical Group donated all the ingredients for Thanksgiving dinners — about \$4,000 worth of food, plus \$2,000 in cash — to the Pioneer Valley USO recently. Submitted photo

RiverBend donates food, cash to local USO

CHICOPEE — RiverBend Medical Group, with offices in several Pioneer Valley towns, including 230 Main St., Agawam, recently donated food and cash to the Pioneer Valley USO.

The group had decided this year to focus on three local charities, as voted by employees, during different events throughout the year. October's beneficiary was the USO, which distributes Thanksgiving dinner baskets to approximately 375 military families in the area. During the month of October, employees at RiverBend Medical Group's six offices brought in gift cards to purchase turkeys, and also stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce and other fixings. On Veterans Day, RiverBend also donated \$2,000 to the USO. The total value of the donation was about \$6,000, said Bruce Marshall, the local USO's director of marketing and development.

The Pioneer Valley USO is based at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee. Its services include a local food pantry, holiday baskets, hospitality and entertainment, children's parties and email and Internet service.

Are You Old News?



Each week the Agawam Advertiser News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured. Email your answers by Monday at noon to aan@turley.com. Please include your first and last name.



Last week's photo: There were no correct submissions for Kenny Grady.

Braman collected 50 coats for drive

Braman Termite and Pest Elimination, collected more than 50 coats from employees and other local businesses in Western Massachusetts to donate to the Salvation Army's Coats for Kids campaign, which concluded recently.

While coats are no longer being collected at Braman's Agawam headquarters, the company's other offices, in Hartford and in Auburn, Mass., are continuing to take donations for local coat drives in those areas.

For more information about Coats for Kids in Western Massachusetts, visit salvationarmycoatsforkids.com. For information about Braman, visit BramanPest.com.

Please recycle this newspaper



Brought to you by Turley Publications, this memory of a lifetime is a special opportunity to personalize a child's Christmas holiday!



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ONLY ONE NAME PER LETTER PLEASE.
\$9.95 for the first one, \$8.95 for each additional. Please include phone number. Make copies of this form as needed. Expires 12-25-15.

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or call 413-283-8393 or email: cgriswold@turley.com,
(Subject: Santa) for immediate assistance.

Quantities are limited. Turley Publications reserves the right to end offer at any time. Payment will be returned if offer expires due to limited quantity being sold out or multiple names per letter. Sales are based on a first come first serve basis.

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Holiday cheer on tap at Capt. Leonard House

The historical Captain Charles Leonard House will celebrate the holiday season with a free open house 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

Decked out for the season, the 1805 stage tavern, in the center of the Agawam Center National Register Historic District at 663 Main St., will continue a two-century tradition of hospitality as the house's board of trustees invites area residents to an afternoon of house tours, historic displays and seasonal refreshments.

A choice selection of china, silver, Christmas items and high-end collectibles from the Captain Leonard House's annual sale will be available for purchase, with all proceeds to benefit the operation and preservation of house, considered

Agawam's finest Federal-era building, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

The Captain Charles Leonard House was built in 1805 as a stage tavern to serve travelers on the Hartford-Boston route. The house was restored in the late 1930s by Minerva Davis, who then established a board of trustees to oversee the operation of the Captain Charles Leonard House as Agawam's Community House, the role it has served since 1939.

The house is available to rent for business functions and social events. For more information, call 413-786-9421 or visit www.captainleonardhouse.com. It is also on Twitter @leonardhouse and on Facebook.com/captain-leonardhouse.



The Captain Charles Leonard House on Main Street will hold a holiday open house Dec. 6. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Community Newspaper Alive & Well

Most newspapers continue to be profitable businesses, with operating margins that average in the low to mid teens. Although that is down from historic highs, these profit margins would be the envy of most other industries today.

PEOPLE/ MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

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